

HOCKEY WORLD CUP South Korea keep semi hopes alive

AFP, New Delhi

Jang Jong-Hyun scored three goals as South Korea routed lowly Canada 9-2 on Sunday to keep their semifinal hopes alive the men's field hockey World Cup.

However, New Zealand's chances of making the knock-out round suffered a setback when they lost 1-0 to Argentina in another Group A match.

Nam Hyun-Woo and You Hyo-Sik chipped in with two goals apiece for South Korea as the Asian champions ran circles around the hapless Canadian defence in the high-scoring match.

The second half produced nine goals, two of them to Canada's Philip Wright, after the Koreans led 2-0 at the interval.

South Korea, who have seven points from four games, may still need to defeat the

Netherlands in their last match on Tuesday to ensure a place in the semifinals.

The Dutch led the group with nine points, followed by defending champions Germany and South Korea on seven each.

The Netherlands will qualify for the semifinals if they do not lose to Germany later on Sunday.

"We needed this win badly and I am happy it all came together today," said Korean coach Shin Seok-Kyo.

"It will take a lot from our side, and also our rivals, to ensure we make it to the semifinals. We can only control what we do and that is to beat the Dutch."

Canada have lost all four matches so far, scoring four goals and conceding 24.

New Zealand, who would have moved to nine points

had they beaten Argentina, paid dearly for a missed penalty stroke by Ryan Archibald three minutes before the interval.

Argentina, beaten in their three previous games, earned the winner in the 55th minute through Facundo Callioni, who diverted in a pass from the right by Pedro Ibarra.

The Black Sticks must now beat Germany on Monday to stay in contention for the semifinals.

"It's disappointing to lose such a crucial game," said New Zealand captain Dean Couzins.

"We knew this could be a vital match and that is how it turned out. We tried our best in the end to get the equaliser, but missed a few chances."

"It now all boils down to other games, but we still need to overcome the Germans."



A goalmouth action from the Bangladesh League match between Farashganj Sporting Club and Shuktara Jubo Sangsad at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Taylor, Franklin out, Stewart in

CRICINFO, undated

Injury doubts over Ross Taylor and James Franklin have led to the elevation of the uncapped Shanan Stewart to New Zealand's squad ahead of the third ODI in Hamilton on Tuesday. Stewart, the Canterbury batsman, is in the middle of an excellent season and has won some recognition following the hamstring problems of Taylor and Franklin.

The pair is in doubt for the remainder of the five-match ODI series, with Taylor pulled out before the loss in Auckland and Franklin hobbling off during the game. Mark Greatbatch, New Zealand's coach, said they were unlikely to play on Tuesday but Taylor was the greater chance to return for the final fixtures.

Stewart, 27, is in outstanding form after making 227 against Central Districts on Sunday and has been redirected to Hamilton. "Shanan has been in our thinking for the Twenty20 World Cup, he's in great nick, he's got a couple of hundreds and a 200 today," Greatbatch told NZPA.

Perfect reply

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was a completely different day for Ashraful, who made just one.

The diminutive right-hander lasted only six balls before Ian Bell took a simple catch at silly mid-on off James Tredwell, who took six wickets on the day.

It took his tally to only 22 runs from the last five first-class innings and it does nothing to persuade the national selectors.

The pressure will fully be on Ashraful to perform in the second innings as it will be his final chance ahead of the first Test which starts in the same venue on March 12.

Mashrafe puts

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squad for the World Cup which will be held in West Indies in April-May.

But before that he may have a chance of proving his form and fitness in the IPL, given that he gets a game. His previous experience with the IPL was not very sweet; last year he had to sit out all the matches but one despite being the hit buy in auctions. This time he may wish for better things since he will be reunited with former Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore. He will also have legendary left-hand pacer Wasim Akram as mentor in the side and the paceman is itching for a go.

"I will have [Wasim] Akram as a mentor in KKR. Hopefully I will learn a lot from him. My fitness will also be tested there."

President's Cup

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as the best runners-up among three groups will qualify for the semifinals.

Group B comprises FC Vakhsh of Tajikistan, Nagacorp of Cambodia, Khan Research Laboratory of Pakistan and Renown Sports Club of Sri Lanka while Group C consists of ITTU of Turkmenistan, Yadanarbon of Myanmar and Druksters of Bhutan as the draw for the teams was held in Malaysia the last Friday.

8 players

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we are ready to sign four to five players more if the federation gives us the opportunity," said Adel.

"We tried to reach a consensus with a few players, but could not make it because there was a huge difference between the players' demand and our payments though we confirmed the service of Chandan and are trying to rope in five quality foreign players from India and Pakistan," said Abahani manager Zaki.

Of 11 participating clubs, only Mohammedan, Abahani and Usha are likely to take part in the special window as other clubs completed their formalities last year during the main transfers in October.

"Usha and Abahani contacted with me but I refused them because of their poor offer, a thing for which I played for a minnow club last season," said national skipper Biplob questioning that if other senior players were given big amount of money, then why he was not offered such an amount despite representing the nation since 2004.

2ND ODI AGAINST ZIMBABWE - GUYANA Windies draw level



AFP, Providence

Chris Gayle and Narsingh Deonarine hit half-centuries as West Indies beat Zimbabwe by four wickets in the second one-day international on Saturday.

Zimbabwe failed to successfully defend a target score of 207, as Gayle collected the top score of 88 from 111 balls and Deonarine supported with 65 from 85 balls.

The result brought West Indies level 1-1 in the five-match series, after Zimbabwe won the opener on Thursday at the same venue.

It was also West Indies' first victory over international opposition, since a depleted side prevailed over Bangladesh by five runs in a Twenty20 International last August in St. Kitts.

"This is a big relief," said West Indies captain Gayle. "Hopefully, this is the first of many to come."

"I must commend Zimbabwe about the way they have gone about their business in this series. They have played some good cricket, and they have put us under a lot of pressure."

"It wasn't an easy game, but I am happy that we rebounded, and we won this game. Hopefully, we can carry on for the remainder of the series."

Elton Chigumbura had struck five fours in 50 from 72 balls, as Zimbabwe were dismissed for 206 in 49.5 overs after they decided to bat.

The Zimbabweans batting was dismantled by left-arm spinner Nikita Miller with a career-best spell of four wickets for 43 runs from 10 overs, and fast bowler Kemar Roach with three for 37 from 9.5 overs.

Zimbabwe appeared to have taken control of the match, when West Indies declined to 85 for four in the 26th over in their chase.

The Zimbabwean spin bowlers were again squeezing the life out of the West Indies batting, when Deonarine joined fellow left-hander Gayle.

But the visitors could not maintain their hold on the match, as Deonarine, in particular, and Gayle gradually loosened their grip in a stand of 83 for the fifth wicket.

But leg-spinner Graeme Cremer had Gayle stumped with West Indies still needing 39 to get from the last 49 balls.

When Price had Kieron Pollard caught at long-on three overs later, Zimbabwe were on their toes, and West Indies were on the edge of their seats.

But this time, there was no late drama, as Darren Sammy hit Price to long-off for four to seal the victory.

"We just believed that if we could keep bowling in partnerships, we could upset them," said Zimbabwe captain Prosper Utseya.

"The ball started to turn [for our spinners], and it was also keeping low. But we just did not have enough runs on the board to keep up the pressure."

"We probably came up a little short on the batting side. We never got a partnership up front, and we kept losing wickets at key moments, so that's why we were about 20 runs short of setting a decent target."

The two sides now travel to the island of St. Vincent for the remaining three ODIs on March 10, 12, and 14.

Gayle feels relieved



CRICINFO, undated

West Indies' four-wicket win in the second ODI against Zimbabwe was their first victory in an international match since August last year. Chris Gayle, the captain, called the series-leveling victory "a big relief" and hoped "this is the first of many to come."

Half-centuries from Gayle and Narsingh Deonarine helped West Indies overhaul Zimbabwe's total of 206. Gayle top scored with 88 from 111 balls, including seven fours and two sixes, while Deonarine supported him with 65 not out from 85 balls. The victory helped West Indies draw level in the five-match series, after Zimbabwe won the opener on Thursday at the same venue.

Gayle, though, was all praise for the opposition. Zimbabwe appeared in control of the match after the hosts slipped to 85 for 4 in the 26th over. Like in the first ODI, spinners were again at the forefront, before Deonarine paired up with Gayle.

"I must commend Zimbabwe about the way they have gone about their business in this series," Gayle said. "They have played some good cricket, and they have put us under a lot of pressure. It wasn't an easy game, but I am happy that we rebounded, and we won this game. Hopefully, we can carry on for the remainder of the series."

After Zimbabwe chose to bat, the visitors were dismantled by Nikita Miller (3 for 37). Carebe 4 for 43, and Kemar Roach (3 for 37). Deonarine Elton Chigumbura's half-century, they could only manage 206. "We probably came up a little short on the batting side," said Prosper Utseya, the Zimbabwe captain. "We never got a partnership up front, and we kept losing wickets at key moments, so that's why we were about 20 runs short of setting a decent target."

However, he was pleased with the bowling effort. "We just believed that if we could keep bowling in partnerships, we could upset them," Utseya said. "The ball started to turn [for our spinners], and it was also keeping low. But we just did not have enough runs on the board to keep up the pressure."

The teams will play the remaining three ODIs in St Vincent on March 10, 12, and 14.

DAVIS CUP Spain, Russia in qtrs



AFP, Paris

Defending champions Spain booked a showdown with France as Russia also eased into the quarter-finals of the Davis Cup World Group here on Sunday.

Croatia, the 2005 champions, and the Czech Republic had already assured their places in the last eight on Saturday.

In Logrono, world number 16 David Ferrer scored the winning point for Spain as he easily saw off Swiss Stanislas Wawrinka 6-2, 6-4, 6-0 to give the hosts an unbeatable 3-1 lead over Switzerland.

Mikhail Youzhny eased Russia into the last eight in Moscow when he beat Somdev Devvarman of India in straight sets.

France maintained their 72-year domination of

Germany when Michael Llodra and Julien Benneteau defeated Philipp Kohlschreiber and Christoph Keiser 6-1, 6-4, 1-6, 7-5 to take an unassailable 3-0 lead in Toulon on Saturday.

Germany got a point back on Sunday when Jo-Wilfried Tsonga was forced to retire with Simon Greul leading 4-6, 6-2, 1-0.

Spain's bid for a third straight title had gotten off to a poor start when Wawrinka beat Nicolas Almagro 3-6, 6-4, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 in the opening rubber on Friday in a tie missing superstars Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

Ferrer brought Spain level with a 6-2, 7-6 (7/5), 6-1 straight sets win over Marco Chiudinelli, ranked 56, in the second rubber.

Marcel Granollers and Tommy Robredo gave Spain the advantage on Saturday beating Yves Allegro and Wawrinka 7-6 (10/8), 6-2, 4-6, 6-4.

In Moscow, the 27-year-old Youzhny won 6-2, 6-1, 6-3 in one hour 54 minutes on Sunday in what was his first ever meeting with Devvarman, who is 128th in the ATP rankings.

Rohan Bopanna won the final rubber, beating Teimuraz Gabashvili 7-6 (7/5), 6-4, to ensure a final double of 3-2, after veteran doubles pairing Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi won Saturday's doubles to keep India in the tie.

"It wasn't as easy as the scoreline may suggest," Youzhny said. "It was much easier for me in the first two sets. I won many points with drop shots as he [Devvarman] was not running well."

"But in the third I got a bit tired and made too many mistakes. Luckily everything ended well for us."

In July's quarterfinals Russia will take on either Argentina or Sweden.

Rokibul lone

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an unchanged 27.2 overs spell.

Apart from the Kent offie, Steven Finn picked up two wickets while Liam Plunkett and Ajmal Shahzad picked up one each.

When England batted, they made a horrid start losing Michael Carberry who made just five. He was out leg-before to Dollar Mahmud in the second over of the innings.

Captain Alastair Cook also fell leg-before to Robiul Islam for 19 before Kevin Pietersen continued his struggle on the tour with left-arm spinners. The big right-hander scored only two runs.

Bell was unbeaten on two with Jonathan Trott who was on 32 off 45 balls.

BRIEF SCORES

BANGLADESH A: First innings 202 all out (Zunaed 16, Shamsur 21, Mehrob 9, Rokibul 107, Ashraful 1, Shuvogoto 9, Sahagir 12, Dollar 0, Noor 6, Rasel 1, Robiul 4; Shahzad 1-26, Plunkett 1-35, Finn 2-13, Tredwell 6-95).

ENGLAND: First innings 68-3 (Carberry 5, Cook 19, Trott 32, Pietersen 2, Bell 2; Robiul 1-27, Dollar 1-23, Mehrob 1-3).

IPL going for change

CRICINFO, undated

The Indian Premier League's (IPL) unveiling of its two new franchises on Sunday ended in an anti-climax with the league pushing back the entire process by two weeks, in the process scrapping the existing tender procedure after bidders objected to stiff financial clauses. The new tenders, which will be floated on March 9 and opened on March 21, will drop a clause requiring the bidder to have a net worth of 1 billion dollars.

The new process will also amend two existing clauses: One will be a reduction of the advance deposit from 100 million dollars to a 10 million dollars "performance guarantee", to be submitted 24 hours in advance of the bid being opened. Another original clause gave the IPL's governing council the discretion to seek from the winning bidder 100 per cent of the amount

with a minimum time-frame; under the new process, the winning bids will be expected to pay 10 per cent of their bid within 48 hours.

The minimum bid amount, however, remains the same at 225 million dollars; the existing tenders were not opened at the IPL governing council meeting in Mumbai and were returned to the bidders.

"The relaxation [of the clauses] was because we received letters from many, many companies who had expressed interest but said that the 1-billion-dollar net worth criterion [was one] which owners of the existing franchises were not asked for earlier," Lalit Modi, the IPL commissioner, said at a brief press conference. "So they asked why they were asked for the new criteria, which eliminates them from bidding, hence the clause has been amended to give more people the opportunity to bid."

Sources told Cricinfo that the opposition came from within too -- senior Board of

Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) officials had objected to the radical revision of clauses from those of two years ago. It was a reversal of Modi's stand that the high entry fee was a means of keeping away frivolous investors. "We put a high-end clause for entry because we need to get solid companies," he had told Cricinfo on Saturday. "This business requires a long gestation period and that is the reason we want to secure ourselves. The BCCI always secures itself."

Rajshahi make

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189 balls. The two wicketkeeper-batsmen added another 77 runs for the eighth wicket. Mashud took his own time scoring his 55 off 220 balls.

It was slow going for the Chittagong bowlers who had to toil for the best part of the second day. In fact Rajshahi batted as many as 169 overs in their first innings.

Mohammad Shahzada, Saqlain Sajid and Shuvashish Roy hardly made any contribution but they made sure the total moved past the 350-mark.

For the port city side, Abdullah Al Mamun picked up three late wickets while two went to Sunny and Kamrul Islam while Faisal Hossain, Alauddin Babu and Mahmudul Hasan took one each.

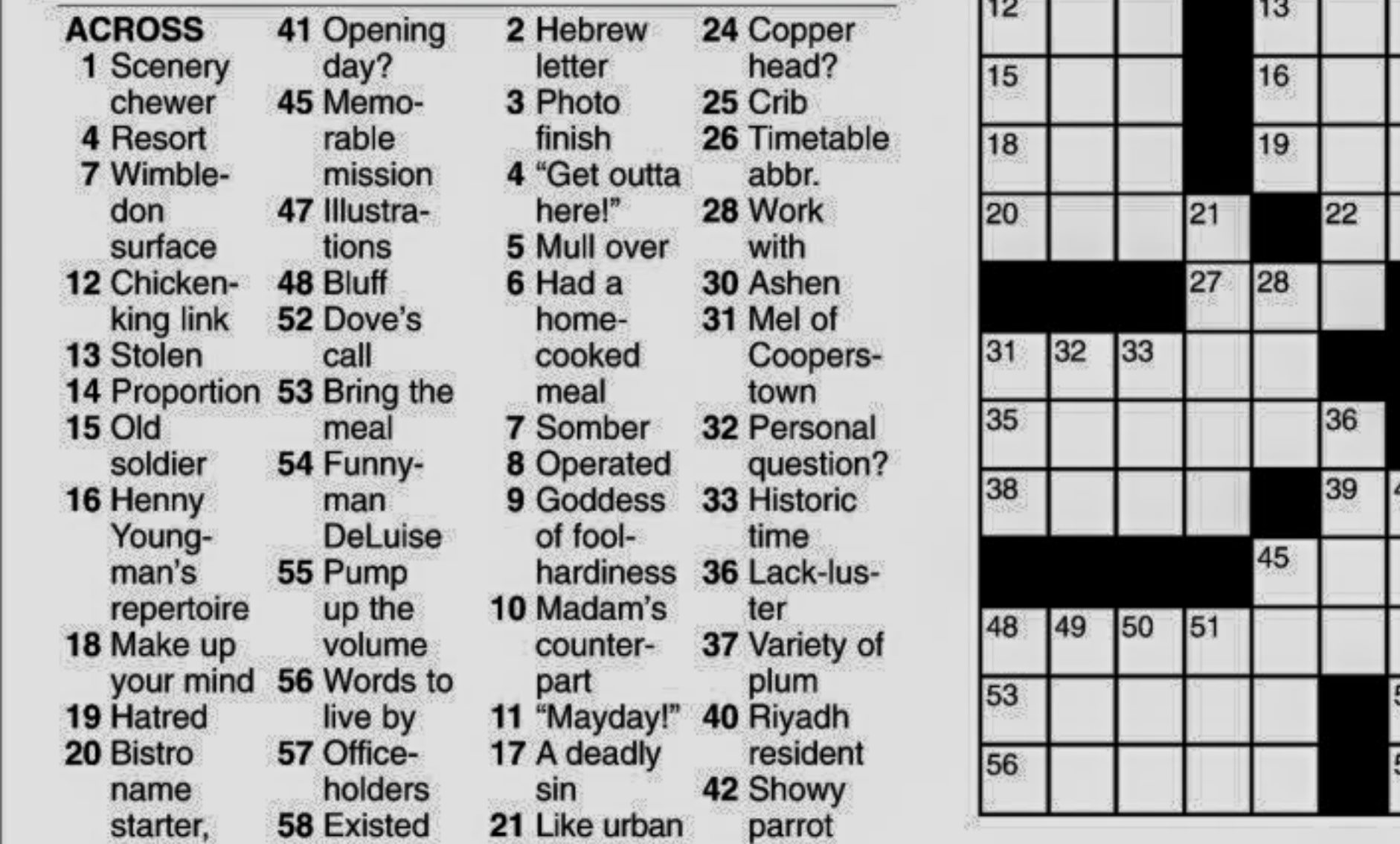
The onus will be on Chittagong now as they must force the pace or only try to topple Rajshahi's first innings total.

SCORES IN BRIEF

RAJSHAHI: First innings 372 all out (Zahurul 59, Shuvo 32, Sabbir 41, Farhad 11, Nasir 28, Masud 55, Anisur 52, Dhiman 66*, Shahzada 8, Saqlain 1, Shuvashish 0; Kamrul 2-84, Babu 1-71, Mamun 3-44, Sunny 2-73, Hasan 1-47, Faisal 1-17).

CHITTAGONG: First innings 21 for no loss (Salahuddin 11*, Karim 6*).

Pro-Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Professor Dr. Harun-or-Rashid gets introduced to the players during the opening ceremony of the inter-university cricket tournament at the Jagannath Hall cricket ground yesterday. In the inaugural match Jahangirnagar University beat Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University by 104 runs. 11 public varsities are taking part in the competition.



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- Scenery
- Resort
- Wimbledon surface
- Chicken-kick link
- Stolen
- Proportion
- Old soldier
- Henny Youngman's repertoire
- Make up your mind
- Hatred
- Bistro name
- Type measures
- Movie pig
- Cheap
- Track legend
- Sports venue
- Requiring bicolor glasses
- "CSI" evidence
- Fly catcher?
- Today

DOWN

- Opening day?
- Memorable mission
- Illustrations
- Bluff
- Dove's call
- Bring the meal
- Funnyman
- Pump up the volume
- Words to live by
- Office-holders
- Existed
- Devastation

Solution time: 25 mins.

MAH HAZE POSE
PTA AMIN LILY
HAIRPIN ALOE
RAP GUESSED
PALMER EAT
ALI NIP RILES
PUNS GAB COPE
AMEND SIR NEE
OAR BURGER
STARDOM DAH
COOK WIREHAIR
ANNE ETAL IRA
REEL DENY RED

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12			13			14				
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53					54				55	
56					57				58	

CRYPTOQUIP

G C D V W J C F Y C G P J J C J V F Z T
P H L L D C V M C V E E E L F F E C
J R M L F C J L Z W J F V I Z L F
F Y V F L ' Z C E H - C Z R E P T C I .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: EVER SINCE THOSE LADIES MET ON A CERTAIN STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, THEY'VE REMAINED PENN PALS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals L